

Reaching Out in Region 4

October 1, 2014

Volume 2 Issue 2

Dates to Remember:

Oct. 24, 2014 Family
Friendly Schools
Application Due

Oct. 15, 2015 SBOE
Places Schools in Official
A-F Categories

Oct. 15, 2014 ICE
Conference

Nov. 13, 2014: ECESC:
Instructional Strategies
for Educators in Grades
4-12

In this issue:

Establishing a School Environment **1**

Experience CCRA **2**

Standards Resource Training Hub **2**

Resource Links **2**

Establishing a school environment that supports the social, emotional, and learning needs of all students

“The climate and the culture of your school are not the same thing. The culture of a school is represented by its shared beliefs, its ceremonies, its nuances, the traditions and the things that make the school unique. School culture takes a great deal of time to create. It doesn’t happen overnight. It happens over years. The climate of the school is represented



by the immediate and current conditions that exist in the school. Everyone associated with the school has the responsibility to contribute to the creation of a school’s culture, from the custodian to the community member. Everyone has the responsibility to contribute to the fundamental foundation of what the school is, how it functions, how it sustains itself and how it grows. Creating a school culture is always active, always ongoing and always a conscious

consideration of leadership in everything it does. It’s a choice. If you are interested in improving your school, add to the culture. Build the culture by adding things that create a uniqueness, that help kids grow as human beings, and that establishes and maintains the school as an essential and contributory member of its community. You do that by first changing the climate of the

school.

Because over time, the climate of the school informs the culture of the school. Over time, elements of a school’s climate can become part of its culture. Truly successful schools create the conditions that enable this to occur.

Of course, understanding this can help address how to build a school culture or how to add depth to an existing one in a positive way.”

[David Jakes 2/28/13 Smart Blog on Education](#)

[Building Community Partners Resource Round-up](#)

"There's no doubt that schools can benefit from the resources and expertise of local businesses, organizations, and individuals. In this roundup, explore examples and strategies for initiating and fostering successful business and community partnerships." The October 4, 2014 edition of Edutopia provided a resource round-up for enlisting the help of vital community partners. [Link Above](#) [LinkAbove](#) [linkabove](#) for more information.

[Relationship Building Through Culturally Responsive Classroom Management](#)

"School behavior problems often originate outside of the classroom. For example, asthma is the [number one cause of absenteeism](#). Additionally, "African American students have a 31% higher likelihood of being suspended than white students," says criminal justice policy expert, Tony Fabelo, "even though no evidence supports the notion that African American students misbehave more." Click the link above for the entire article written by Todd Finley which includes timely tips for being more culturally responsive." [Link Above](#)

[Announcing: Experience College- and Career-Ready Assessment \(also referred to as "Experience CCRA"\) is now available!](#)



Important details regarding Experience College - and Career-Ready Assessment (Experience CCRA) for grades 3-8....

Experience CCRA is a set of technology-enhanced items available for classroom use.

These items are hosted by CTB/McGraw-Hill in an Experience CCRA environment.

Experience CCRA includes each of the technology-enhanced items types that will be part of the Spring 2015 ISTEP+ Assessment.

Experience CCRA is designed to be engaging and interactive for students and teachers.

Coming in January: Experience CCRA for ECAs

[Indiana Academic Standards Regional Training: Resource Hub](#)

The DOE held 10 regional meetings on the Indiana's New Academic Standards and Assessments. Participants learned more about standards resources, online communities of practice, and instructional guidance for our new assessments including ECA's, ISTEP+, Acuity, and IREAD3. Linked above is a link to the resource hub and released assessment items. Educators should check back for additional guidance items such as rubrics and additional guidance on all assessments.

Resources

[Family Friendly Schools](#)

[Best Practices: Parent Involvement in Schools](#)

[Best Practices: School Climate and Learning](#)

[ASCD: School Climate and Culture Resources](#)

[How to Create a Positive School Climate](#)

[Sample School Climate Survey from New Jersey](#)

[School Climate Survey from Teaching Tolerance](#)

DOE Links:

[Standards Resources](#)

[Assessment Resources](#)

[Online Communities of Practice](#)

[Outreach Resources](#)

6 WAYS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL CULTURE

Build relationships. Kids don't care what you know until they know that you care.

Set clear expectations. Agree on a basic set of behavioral expectations for your entire school and communicate those expectations to all students and staff all the time.

Teach processes. When you want students to do something, teach them the steps it will take to get there, and repeat them until students have internalized the process.

Praise students for good choices. Compliment the specific behaviors you are looking to reinforce.

Keep things small. Kids are going to make mistakes. Avoid escalating small mistakes into big confrontations. Take a few minutes away from the situation, if necessary, so you can respond calmly, instead of in the heat of the moment.

Be patient. It takes time for students to master new behaviors and social skills. Think about it in terms of sports. You're not going to get upset because the first time you pitch to a kid, he strikes out. You're going to keep pitching over and over again.

[Jennifer L.W. Fink](#)